

CLAIMS :

1. An electric power controller for vehicle, comprising:

5 an overheat detector for detecting whether a power line supplying power from a vehicle battery to vehicle load is overheated;

a voltage detector for detecting a voltage of the vehicle battery;

10 a voltage converter for converting power from the vehicle battery into a proper voltage and outputting a switching control signal reflecting the proper voltage;

15 a switching unit for performing ON/OFF switching operations based on the switching control signal to control power from the vehicle battery to the vehicle load; and

20 a controller for inputting an overheat signal from the overheat detector and the voltage from the voltage detector, determining whether there is an abnormal current, and outputting a switching control signal, corresponding to a result to analyze a change of the voltage, to the switching unit.

2. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

25 the controller outputs determination information of

the abnormal current according to the change of the voltage;
and

the electric power controller further comprises a
diagnostic information output unit for storing the
5 determination information of the abnormal current and
outputting the same to an external vehicle controller.

10 3. The electric power controller as set forth in claim
1, wherein the controller controls the switching unit to
switch its OFF state to its ON state when receiving a reset
15 signal from an external vehicle controller.

15 4. The electric power controller as set forth in claim
1, wherein the voltage detector outputs the voltage to an
external vehicle controller.

5. The electric power controller as set forth in claim
1, wherein the voltage detector comprises:

20 an element for measuring a voltage of the vehicle
battery; and

an amplifier for amplifying a voltage difference
between terminals of the element.

25 6. An electric power controller for a vehicle,
comprising:

an overheat detector for detecting whether a power line supplying power from a vehicle battery to vehicle load is overheated;

5 a voltage detector for detecting a voltage of the vehicle battery;

a voltage converter for converting power from the vehicle battery into a proper voltage and outputting a switching control signal reflecting the proper voltage;

10 a switching unit for performing ON/OFF switching operations based on the switching control signal to control power from the vehicle battery to the vehicle load; and

15 a controller for inputting an overheat signal from the overheat detector and the voltage from the voltage detector, determining whether there is an abnormal current, outputting a switching control signal, corresponding to a result to analyze change of the voltage, to the switching unit, and adjusting occurrence intervals of switching control signals, corresponding to respective ON and OFF states, to control the magnitude of effective value of vehicle power supplied 20 to the vehicle load via the switching unit.

7. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 6, wherein:

25 the controller outputs determination information of the abnormal current according to the change of the voltage;

and

the electric power controller further comprises a diagnostic information output unit for storing the determination information of the abnormal current and outputting the same to an external vehicle controller.

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8. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 6, wherein the controller controls the switching unit to switch its OFF state to its ON state when receiving a reset signal from an external vehicle controller.

9. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 6, wherein the voltage detector outputs the voltage to an external vehicle controller.

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10. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 6, wherein the voltage detector comprises:

an element for measuring a voltage of the vehicle battery; and

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an amplifier for amplifying a voltage difference between terminals of the element.

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11. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 6, wherein the controller adjusts occurrence intervals of switching control signals corresponding to respective ON

and OFF states if the vehicle battery outputs a transient current, so as to reduce a magnitude of power supplied to the vehicle load.

5 12. An electric power controller for a vehicle, comprising:

an overheat detector for detecting whether a power line supplying power from a vehicle battery to the vehicle load is overheated;

10 a voltage detector for detecting a voltage of the vehicle battery;

a voltage converter for converting power from the vehicle battery into a proper voltage and outputting a switching control signal reflecting the proper voltage;

15 a switching unit for performing ON/OFF switching operations based on the switching control signal to control power from the vehicle battery to the vehicle load; and

20 a controller for inputting an overheat signal from the overheat detector and the voltage from the voltage detector, determining whether there is an abnormal current, and outputting a switching control signal, corresponding to a result to analyze change of the voltage, to the switching unit,

25 wherein the electric power controller is installed in a printed circuit board of a junction box and electrically

connected thereto.

13. The electric power controller as set forth in
claim 12, wherein the electric power controller is
5 integrated with the junction box as compliant pins of the
electric power controller are inserted into throughholes in
the printed circuit board of the junction box.

14. The electric power controller as set forth in
10 claim 12, wherein:

the controller outputs determination information of
the abnormal current according to the change of the voltage;
and

15 the electric power controller further comprises a
diagnostic information output unit for storing the
determination information of the abnormal current and
outputting the same to the outside.

16. The electric power controller as set forth in
20 claim 14, wherein the diagnostic information output unit
notifies an external vehicle controller of the determination
information of the abnormal current.

25 claim 12, wherein the controller controls the switching unit

to switch its OFF state to its ON state when receiving a reset signal from an external vehicle controller.

5 17. The electric power controller as set forth in
claim 12, wherein the voltage detector outputs the voltage
to an external vehicle controller.

18. The electric power controller as set forth in
claim 12, wherein the voltage detector comprises:

10 an element for measuring the voltage of the vehicle
battery; and

an amplifier for amplifying a voltage difference
between terminals of the element.

15 19. The electric power controller as set forth in
claim 12, wherein the controller adjusts occurrence
intervals of switching control signals corresponding to
respective ON and OFF states to control the magnitude of
effective value of the vehicle power supplied to the vehicle
20 load via the switching unit.

25 20. The electric power controller as set forth in
claim 19, wherein the controller reduces a magnitude of
power supplied to the vehicle load if the vehicle battery
outputs transient current.

21. An electric power controller for a vehicle, comprising:

5 an overheat detector for detecting whether a power line supplying power from a vehicle battery to loads is overheated;

a voltage detector for detecting a voltage of the vehicle battery;

10 a voltage converter for converting power from the vehicle battery into a proper voltage and outputting a switching control signal reflecting the proper voltage;

a switching unit for performing ON/OFF switching operations based on the switching control signal to control power from the vehicle battery to the vehicle load; and

15 a controller for inputting an overheat signal from the overheat detector and the voltage from the voltage detector, determining whether there is an abnormal current, and outputting a switching control signal, corresponding to a result to analyze a change of the voltage, to the switching unit,

20 wherein the electric power controller is installed in a printed circuit board of a junction box, and electrically connected thereto by a line connector such that one end of the line connector is connected to an input/output interface 25 terminal of the printed circuit board and the other end

thereof.

22. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 21, wherein:

5 the controller outputs determination information of the abnormal current according to the change of the voltage; and

10 the electric power controller further comprises a diagnostic information output unit for storing the determination information of the abnormal current and outputting the same to the outside.

15 23. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 22, wherein the diagnostic information output unit notifies an external vehicle controller of the determination information of the abnormal current.

20 24. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 21, wherein the controller controls the switching unit to switch its OFF state to its ON state when receiving a reset signal from an external vehicle controller.

25 25. The electric power controller as set forth in claim 21, wherein the voltage detector outputs the voltage to an external vehicle controller.

26. The electric power controller as set forth in
claim 21, wherein the voltage detector comprises:

an element for measuring a voltage of the vehicle
5 battery; and

an amplifier for amplifying a voltage difference
between terminals of the element.

27. The electric power controller as set forth in
10 claim 21, wherein the controller adjusts occurrence
intervals of switching control signals corresponding to
respective ON and OFF states to control the magnitude of
effective value of the vehicle power supplied to vehicle
load via the switching unit.

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28. The electric power controller as set forth in
claim 27, wherein the controller reduces the magnitude of
power supplied to the vehicle loads if the vehicle battery
outputs a transient current.

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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 09 December 2004 (09.12.2004);
original claims 1-5 cancelled; remaining claims unchanged (2 pages)]
+STATEMENT

1. (Cancelled)

5 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Cancelled)

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6. An electric power controller for a vehicle,
25 comprising:

STATEMENT UNDER PCT ARTICLE 19

Claims 1 to 5 have been cancelled. The purpose of these amendments is to limit the scope of the claimed invention. These amendments should have no effect on the description and drawings.